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**Grant
Announcement**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2001

***Carson Announces Assistance to Sapulpa Fire Department
FEMA Grant to develop a Wellness and Fitness Program***

Washington, D.C. --

Second District Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) announced the awarding of a \$54,203 federal grant to the Sapulpa Fire Department to develop a wellness and fitness program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the grant under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The Sapulpa Fire Department received a second FEMA grant in July for \$19,800 to institute a training program for new firefighters.

"I am extremely pleased with FEMA's decision to award the Sapulpa Fire Department a grant to develop a fitness program," Congressman Carson said. "One of the most prevalent factors leading to injury and death among our firefighters is the lack of a rigorous physical fitness program. This grant will also provide immunization shots to ensure the healthy well-being of the men and women who dedicate their lives to the Sapulpa community."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was authorized by Congress in 2000, and is the first federal program to provide grants to fire departments. In 2001, FEMA will award \$100 million in assistance for vehicles, training and fitness programs, equipment, and fire prevention programs. Since July, twelve departments in Congressman Carson's district have received funding.

"I worked with Chief Jackie Carner and his department to secure this funding, and I am excited we were successful," said Congressman Carson. "FEMA will continue this program next year, and I encourage other departments to contact my office for any assistance." The second round of funding through the program will begin next spring. Congressman Carson will be contacting departments after FEMA has set the final deadlines and requirements. Fire departments should contact Shane Jernigan in Congressman Carson's Washington, D.C. office at (202) 225-2701 for further information and assistance.

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